

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following claim listing:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) An apparatus for making snow or a snow-like substance comprising:

a container having a cooling space adapted to contain pressurized air or gas of above atmospheric pressure; and

at least one flexible walled vessel extending through the cooling space, the at least one vessel being connectable to a water source, wherein the apparatus is operable to maintain the cooling space at a sufficiently low temperature to at least partially freeze the water within the flexible walled vessel.

50. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 which is adapted to maintain a static pressure within the cooling space of the container.

51. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 which is adapted to maintain a static pressure within the cooling space of the container and to periodically and temporarily increase the pressure within the cooling space to compress the flexible walled vessel.

52. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 further comprising a detachment aid to aid in detaching ice crystals and/or snow from the internal walls of the vessel, the detachment and comprising an inflation source to cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflate the at

least one vessel to effect dislodgement of the snow and/or ice crystals from the inner walls of the vessel.

53. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 52 wherein the inflation source also serves to discharge the ice crystals and/or snow from within the vessel.

54. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 51, operable to temporarily increase the pressure in the cooling space of the container above the static pressure, at the frequency of between 10 and 15 inflation/deflation cycles of the at least one vessel.

55. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 further comprising spray nozzles to spray a heat transfer medium onto the at least one vessel.

56. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 55 further comprising refrigeration equipment to chill the heat transfer medium, wherein the apparatus operates to circulate the heat transfer medium through the spray nozzles and the refrigeration equipment.

57. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 56 wherein the flexible walled vessel comprises a hose, pipe, tube or conduit, and further includes a heater to heat the heat transfer medium, wherein the apparatus is operable to periodically bypass the refrigeration equipment and instead circulate the heat transfer medium through the heater and the spray nozzles.

58. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 57 wherein there are a plurality of vessels arranged in groups and wherein each of the vessels has a discharge valve and the discharge valves of each group are mechanically interconnected to operate in unison, with each group having their vessels discharged at successive intervals.

59. (New) A method for making snow or a snow-like substance, comprising:

providing a container having a cooling space containing a fluid comprising substantially air with at least one flexible walled vessel extending through the cooling space;

connecting the at least one flexible walled vessel to a source of fluid comprising substantially water;

pressurising the cooling space within the container to a pressure above atmospheric; and

maintaining the cooling space to a sufficiently low temperature to at least partially freeze the fluid within the flexible walled vessel.

60. (New) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising periodically and temporarily increasing the pressure within the container to compress the flexible walled vessel.

61. (New) The method as claimed in claim 59, further comprising maintaining a static pressure within the cooling space of the container and periodically and temporarily increasing the pressure within the cooling space to compress the flexible walled vessel.

62. (New) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflating the at least one vessel to effect dislodgement of the snow and/or ice crystals from the inner walls of the vessel.

63. (New) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising spraying a chilled heat transfer medium onto the at least one vessel.

64. (New) The method as claimed in claim 63 further comprising periodically heating the heat transfer medium and spraying the heat transfer medium onto the at least one vessel.

65. (New) An apparatus for making snow or a snow-like substance comprising:
at least one flexible walled vessel connectable to a water source; and
spray equipment to spray heat transfer medium onto the at least one flexible walled vessel to chill the at least one flexible walled vessel sufficient to form ice crystals and/or snow within the at least one vessel.

66. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 65 wherein the spray equipment further includes refrigeration equipment to chill the heat transfer medium wherein the apparatus operates to circulate the heat transfer medium through the spray nozzles and the refrigeration equipment.

67. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66 further comprising a heater to heat the heat transfer medium, wherein the apparatus is operable to periodically bypass the refrigeration equipment and instead circulate the heat transfer medium through the heater and the spray nozzles.

68. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 65 further comprising a detachment aid to aid in detaching ice crystals and/or snow from the internal walls of the vessel wherein the detachment aid comprises an inflation source to cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflate the at least one vessel to effect dislodgement of the snow and/or ice crystals from the inner walls of the vessel and wherein the vessel includes an air release valve to release the air from the vessel and permit deflation thereof.

69. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 68 wherein the inflation source also serves to discharge the ice crystals and/or snow from within the vessel.

70. (New) A method for making snow or a snow-like substance comprising:
providing at least one flexible walled vessel;
connecting the at least one flexible walled vessel to a source of fluid comprising substantially water; and
spraying heat transfer medium onto the flexible walled vessel to form ice crystals and/or snow within the vessel.

71. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70 further comprising circulating the heat transfer medium through a chiller to chill the heat transfer medium.

72. (New) The method as claimed in claim 71 further comprising periodically bypassing the chiller and circulating the heat transfer medium through a heater.

73. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70 further comprising manipulating the vessel to detach ice crystals and/or snow from the inner wall of the vessel, wherein the manipulation is provided by cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflating the flexible walled vessel by a source of pressurized air or gas applied internally to the vessel wherein the air or gas is permitted to bleed from the vessel to allow deflation.